

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 EB-11 EUR-25 AGR-20 OMB-01

IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03

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DRAFTED BY AID/ASIA/SA:AFESSENDEN/NEA/PAB:LBLESSER

7/13/73 X2L453

APPROVED BY NEA:JJSISCO

NEA:AHMEYER

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

EB/OFPP:CCAVANAUGH

EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON (SUBS)

AID/AA/ASIA:DMACDONALD (DRAFT)

AID/ASIA/DP:ASHAKOW

AID/FFP:KBITTERMANN (SUBS)

USDA/EMS:JHUTCHINS (DRAFT)

USDA/EMS: AMEAD(DRAFT)

USDA/EMS: PENCE/FJACK/RSHEGOGUE(SUSBS)

OMB: PDUSAULT

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P R 140017Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FOOD SITUATION

REF: (A) DACCA 3045, (B) STATE 133125

1. THERE IS NO WAY THAT USG COULD ACCELERATE DELIVERIES OF
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WHEAT BEFORE FIRST 100,000 MT FINANCED UNDER AID GRANT

ARRIVES. EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN AUTHORIZATION OF FIRST QUARTER SHIPMENTS OF 200,000 MT AID GRANT FINANCED WHEAT PLUS ADDITIONAL 80,000 MT UNDER PL 480 TITLE I. NO USG CONCESSIONAL GRAIN IN POSITION OR AVAILABLE FOR DIVERSION WHICH WOULD REACH CHITTAGONG BEFORE FIRST TRANCHE UNDER GRANT. FYI EXPECT WORD ON TENTATIVE SHIPPING SCHEDULE FOR 100,000 MT WITHIN FEW DAYS. PRESENT GUESS IS ETA EARLY SEPTEMBER. END FYI.

2. INASMUCH AS USG WHEAT SHIPMENTS WILL ARRIVE DURING CRUCIAL SHORTAGE PERIOD WHILE SOME CY L973 PLEDGED GRAIN FROM OTHER SOURCES IS NOT EXPECTED TO ARRIVE UNTIL CY 1974, YOU SHOULD FIRST URGE BDG TO APPROACH OTHER NATIONS IN EFFORT FIND REPLACEMENT STOCKS FOR POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF SOVIET WHEAT.

3. IF BDG FINDS SUCH REPLACEMENT NOT POSSIBLE, WE WOULD AT THAT TIME BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF DIVERSION WHICH MIGHT BE REPLACED FROM US WHEAT. AT THIS

TIME WE CANNOT RPT NOT GIVE FIRM ASSURANCE OF REPLACEMENT FROM US WHEAT BECAUSE ALL FUTURE SHIPMENTS OF US WHEAT TO BD AND OTHER COUNTRIES NOT CONTRACTED BY JUNE 13 ARE SUBJECT TO ANY FUTURE US EXPORT CONTROL ACTIONS.

4. FYI. WE ARE EXPLORING WHETHER THERE IS ANY WAY WE CAN EXERT POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT TO DIVERT TO BANGLADESH WHEAT SHIPMENTS PRESENTLY BOUND FOR USSR. WASHINGTON POST OF 11 JULY HAS LONG ARTICLE BY RONALD KOVEN STATING THAT QUOTE BD HAS APPEALED TO SOVIET UNION TO DIVERT SOME OF THE WHEAT PURCHASED FROM THE US TO HELP AVERT A SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGE. UNQUOTE. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT BDG HAS PLEDGED TO REIMBURSE THE SOVIETS WITH GRAIN THEY EXPECT TO GET FROM USG UNDER FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM. THIS IDEA WHICH ATTRIBUTED BY POST TO QUOTE HIGH BANGLADESH SOURCES IN WASHINGTON UNQUOTE IS ONE POSSIBLE OPTION, BUT SUBJECT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION WITHIN USG AND WILL BE ADDRESSED IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. AT THIS POINT, NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. END FYI. RUSH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE138284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFESSENDEN/NEA/PAB:LBLESSER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730733/aaaaaybr.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 (A) DACCA 3045, (B) STATE 133125
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH FOOD SITUATION
TAGS: EAID, BG, US
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005